

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-2 and 4 are cancelled, and claims 3 and 5-33 are amended. Thus, claims 3 and 5-33 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application, and to correct the informalities of the abstract as identified in item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the substitute specification and abstract illustrating the changes made to the original specification and abstract.

The Applicants note that the Examiner failed to acknowledge, in item 12 on the Office Action Summary form, the Applicants' claim of foreign priority based on JP 11-14532 and JP 11-49488, and the receipt of the certified copies of the foreign priority documents. The Form PCT/IB/304 was submitted to the Office with this national stage application on September 22, 2000 to indicate that certified copies of the priority documents were indeed submitted to the International Receiving Office as evidence that a proper claim for foreign priority was made in the corresponding international application, PCT/JP00/00307. Furthermore, as evidenced by the Notification of Missing Requirements mailed on October 25, 2000 and the Notice of Acceptance mailed on December 1, 2000, the Office has received the foreign priority documents of the present application. For the Examiner's convenience, a courtesy copy of each of the Form PCT/IB/304, the Notification of Missing Requirements and the Notice of Acceptance are submitted herewith.

Accordingly, the Applicants' respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the Applicants' claim of foreign priority based on the above-identified priority applications, and the receipt of the copies of the certified copies of the foreign priority documents.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rostoker et al. (U.S. 5,872,784). This rejection is

believed to be moot with respect to claims 1-2 and 4 in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection, independent claims 3-9 and 19-33 have been amended in order to more clearly illustrate the marked differences between the present invention and the applied references. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 5-33 are clearly patentable over Rostoker et al. for the following reasons.

As defined in the present invention, a “target” is an object to be controlled, and a “controller” is a device for controlling the object to be controlled. Further, as defined in the present invention, a “consumer” is a device for receiving data from the target, and an “initiator” is a device for creating a connection based on a protocol between the target and the controller or consumer.

As illustrated in Figure 1, for example, the present invention provides a TV 21 and a PC 23 which each comprise a controller and a target. The TV 21 and the PC 23 thus have means for establishing a connection between a controller and a target, such as their own target comprised therein, or with another target, such as the DVD 31, the digital video system VTR (DVC) 32, the DVC movie 34 and the set-top-box (STB) 35, on the network. That is, the TV 21 and the PC 23, for example, establish connections between their own controllers and targets, and also establish connections between their controllers and other targets.

Claims 3 and 5-9 have each been amended to recite this novel feature of the present invention. In particular, claims 3 and 5 have each been amended to recite a device having a controller and a target, where the device is further provided with means for establishing a connection between a controller and a target of another device.

In addition, claims 6-9 have each been amended to recite a device, such as the TV 1541 and the PC 1543 illustrated in Figure 15, as having a controller, a target and a consumer for receiving data from a target. Further, the device of claims 6-9 having the controller, target and the consumer is also provided with an initiator for establishing a connection between a target and a consumer.

Claims 19-33, which recite a controller, target or consumer in the network control system recited in claims 3 and 5-9 have also been similarly amended to recite a device

having a controller or an initiator for establishing a connection between a controller and either a target or a consumer, where the controller or initiator for establishing such a connection is provided in the device, not on the network.

Rostoker et al. discloses a remote connection digital processing device. As shown in Figure 1, Rostoker et al. includes a network device 300 on the network, which corresponds to an initiator of the present invention. However, as clearly shown in Figure 1 and disclosed throughout the Rostoker et al. reference, this network device 300 is merely a device which exclusively establishes connections among the respective devices by changing the protocol of data which is transferred on the network. Furthermore, the network device 300 is not comprised in any of the devices on the network, and therefore, the network device 300 clearly does not correspond to a controller or a target of the present invention. In other words, the network device 300 is merely a network device that is exclusive of each of the devices on the network, where the network device 300 merely changes the protocol of data transmitted on the network.

Therefore, the inventions of claims 3, 5 and 19-33, which recite a controller or initiator comprised in a device on the network for establishing a connection between a controller and a target of the device or another target or between a controller and a consumer, are clearly not disclosed or suggested by Rostoker et al.

Accordingly, Rostoker et al. clearly fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of each claims 3, 5 and 19-33 since Rostoker et al. fails to disclose or suggest a controller or initiator comprised in a device on a network for establishing a connection between a controller and either a target or a consumer.

Therefore, claims 3, 5 and 19-33 are clearly patentable over Rostoker et al.

Furthermore, it is submitted that the clear distinctions discussed above are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to modify Rostoker et al. in such as manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 3, 5 and 19-33. Therefore, it is submitted that the claims 3, 5 and 19-33, as well as claims 6-18 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner.

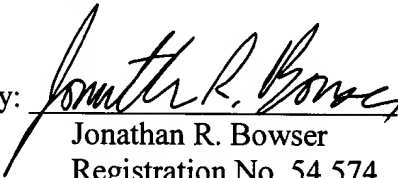
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

A fee and a Petition for a one-month Extension of Time are filed herewith pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

Respectfully submitted,

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